

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 270

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1630, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR AN AT-HOME SCHOOL READINESS PILOT PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE MINIMUM INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS, TO ESTABLISH DUTIES OF THE EARLY EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PROVIDER, TO ESTABLISH DUTIES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS RELATING TO FUNDING; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1630, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1630. AT-HOME SCHOOL READINESS PILOT PROGRAM. (1) There is hereby established the at-home school readiness pilot program authorizing the state department of education to contract with an early education technology provider selected through a procurement process in compliance with state law to provide a home-based educational technology program for literacy and numeracy instruction under the criteria enumerated in this section. Preference shall be given to respondents with a demonstrated record of success providing comparable services at low cost in Idaho or other states.

(2) The early education technology provider shall provide computer-assisted instruction for young children over the internet on a home computer. At a minimum, instruction shall include:

- (a) Computer-assisted individualized instruction in the fundamentals of reading and mathematics, capable of independent use by a young child;
- (b) A multisensory remedial reading tutorial; and
- (c) A validated computer adaptive reading assessment to measure reading readiness.

(3) The provider shall communicate with parents, provide virtual and in-person training, update instructional software, validate user access, collect usage figures, retain research data and produce reports for parents, schools and the legislature. The provider shall be capable of quickly modifying, improving and supporting the instructional product.

(4) The provider shall offer technical support to families for operation of the instructional software. The provider shall loan and facilitate installation of computer and peripheral equipment, as well as internet services, for families living at or below one hundred eight-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level who do not already have them, for use during the duration of participation in the program.

(5) The provider shall make an annual report available to the state department of education and the legislature, which shall include:

1 (a) The extent to which the program is accomplishing its established  
2 purpose as specified in subsection (2) of this section;

3 (b) The number of families requesting and selected to participate;

4 (c) The number of families requesting and selected to receive comput-  
5 ers;

6 (d) The instructional usage rate;

7 (e) The obstacles encountered with software, hardware or technical as-  
8 sistance;

9 (f) The degree of parental satisfaction;

10 (g) The comparison of participant performance on assessments adminis-  
11 tered prior to beginning the program and upon completing the program;  
12 and

13 (h) The comparison of participant performance and nonparticipant per-  
14 formance on the kindergarten reading skills assessment established by  
15 this chapter.

16 (6) The state department of education shall assist the provider in  
17 identifying regions of the state in which students demonstrate low perfor-  
18 mance on the kindergarten reading skills assessment established by chapter  
19 16, title 33, Idaho Code. The provider shall work in cooperation with school  
20 districts and other entities to identify and solicit participating families  
21 from those regions through, at a minimum, referrals and a public information  
22 campaign.

23 (7) State funding for the at-home school readiness pilot program may be  
24 combined with grants and donations from private sources and other public and  
25 private funding, and administered through pay for success contracting, to  
26 the extent permitted by law, or other funding mechanisms.

27 SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall be null, void and of no force  
28 and effect on and after July 1, 2020.